Message Text

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: OCON, TECH, JA, US

SUBJECT: UJNR DESALTING PANEL MEETING

REF: J.W. O'MEARA'S LETTER (DEPT OF INTERIOR, OFFICE OF WATER RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY) TO ISHIZAKA, 8/12/74

1. JAPANESE PANEL ON DESALTING OF SEA WATER AND UTILIZATION OF BY-PRODUCTS, UJNR, HAS REQUESTED CONFIRMATION OF A STATEMENT IN REFLETTER BY O'MEARA TO EFFECT THAT US PANEL WILL NOT BE IN POSITION TO DISCUSS WITH JAPANESE PANEL HOLDING ANOTHER PANEL MEETING UNTIL EARLY 1976 RPT 1976. MR. O'MEARA'S LETTER ATTRIBUTED DEFERRAL TO REORGANIZATION OF DEPT OF INTERIOR'S OFFICE OF SALINE WATER AND RESULTING UNCERTAINTIES IN FUTURE PROGRAMS AND BUDGET. JAPNESE PANEL MEMBER INDICATED THAT EXTENDED DEFERRAL OF DECISION ON NEXT PANEL MEETING CAME AS SERIOUS DESAPPOINTMENT TO JAPANESE SIDE, AND WE WOULD ANTICIPATE JAPANESE OBJECTION TO THIS DEFERRAL. IF IT IS CONFIRMED THAT EARLY 1976 DATE FOR DISCUSSION IS INTENTIONAL, AND NOT IN ERROR. JAPANESE CONCERN IS PARTLY RELATED TO FACT THAT FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE TO THEM IN THIS FISCAL YEAR (ENDING MARCH 31, 1975) TO PARTICIPATE IN DESALTING PANEL MEETING IN US, BUT CONCERN UNDOUBTEDLY GOES MUCH DEEPER THAN THIS, IN VIEW OF IMPLICATION IN LETTER THAT CONTINUANCE OF PANEL, AND NOT MERELY TIMING OF NEXT MEETING, IS BEING QUESTIONED IN US.

2. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE FURTHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION, IF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ANY, ON BASIS FOR PROPOSED DEFERRAL TO 1976 OF DISCUSSION

OF FUTURE MEETINGS OF DESALTING PANEL. IN ADDITIONAL, SINCE PANEL IS WELL-ESTABLISHED ACTIVITY UNDER UJNR, A GOVERNMENT-TO -GOVERNMENT PROGRAM, EMBASSY FEELS THAT US DESIRE TO DEFER FOR AN EXTENDED PERIOD EVEN THE DISCUSSION ON WHETHER TO PROCEED WITH NEXT PANEL MEETING SHOULD BE PRESENTED TO GOJ MORE IN TERMS OF APROPOSAL THAN AS A UNILATERLA DECISION. IF US POSITION ON DEFERRAL IS CLEAR, EMBASSY WOULD PROPOSE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF JAPANESE REQUEST FOR CONFIRMATION AS OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT NEED FOR THIS DEFERRAL IN SOMEWHAT MORE CONSULTATIVE MANNER. PLEASE PROVIDE BACKGROUND INFORMATION AND ADVISE IF THIS APPROACH IS ACCEPTABLE.

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